



William Cecill knight, high Steward of the Citie of Westminster, and Ambrose Case knight, Chauncelour of the Duchye of Lancaster, two of the priuie counsell to the Quenes moste excellent Maiestie: To the Barlyffe, Headboroughes, Constables, and other officers within the sayde Citie, or within the liberties of the Duchye of Lancaster within the sayde Citie, greetynge. Knowe ye that our sayde soueraigne Lady the Quene, hauyng compassion of the estate of that her Citie, because of the long visitation therof with the plague, and beyng desirous that it myght please almightie God to continue the inclinatio of his mercy towarde the same, by ceassing of the infection therof utterly, so as the assemblies of her Iustices and ministers, myght returne thither safely, to minister Iustice and lawe, and all others her good louyng subiectes to repayre also thither, and receaue com-

fort therof, according to the necessitie of theyr causes, and as heretofore hath ben accustomed: Hath therfore thought meete and agreable to the wyll of almightie God, to cause all maner of good orders that may be deuysed for this purpose, to be spedly and duely executed. For whiche purpose, by her Maiesties expresse commaundement geuen to vs, both by her gracious speache and letters: we to whom the gouernance of the sayde Citie vnder her Maiestie doth belong, in the ryght of our sayde seuerall offices aboue mentioned, do wyll and straghtly commaunde you, that you shall accordyng to the good crample of the orders deuysed by the ryght honorable the Lorde Maior of the Citie of London, and the Aldermen of the same, publishe this our order folowyng, and the same cause to be duely obserued and kept.

Fyrst, We Wyll and commaunde you in the name of our sayde soueraigne Lad the Quene, that all and euery person, now keepyng, or that hereafter shall kepe any mansion house, Inne, lodgyng, or Shoppe, within that Citie or liberties, beyng at this present, or that hereafter shall be visited with the plague, or that hath ben visited within twenty dayes before this present daye: do forthwith after the publication hereof, shutte by both theyr doores and wyndowes towarde the streates or common wayes, by the space of fortie dayes, then next ensuyng, from the last tyme of the visitation or such sickness of any person within theyr sayde house or Shoppe, and that nother the owner, master, or keeper of the same house or Shoppe, nor any person belongyng to the same house, at any tyme within the same space, go forth of the same, or procure or permit any person, beyng cleane or whole, and not infected with the sayde contagious sickness, to resort or come into theyr house or Shoppe, vppon payne to be committed to the stocks, and there to abyde the space of seuen dayes, or lesse, or more, as the Barlyffe and Headboroughes, and head Constables of the paryshe shall thynke meete: and after that, to be committed to the common gayle, there to remayne vntyll the ende of fortie dayes, from the tyme of the first comitting to the stocks, without bayle or maynpryse. And yet because Christian charitie requireth, that yf it shall happen that the keeper or owner of the house or Shoppe, which shall be thus shutte by as afoze is saide, be so poore as the same cannot without some reliefe of other good people, abyde in theyr houses, and susteyne them selues and famly with necessary victuell and fuell: Therfore the sayde officers aforesayde, with the Curate of euery paryshe, and the Churchwardens of the same, shall cause a collection to be made euery Sunday, or oftener, of the charitie of all the inhabitauntes of the paryshe, and shall appoynt and order certayne honest charitable persons, with the sayde collections, to relieue the sayde poore infected persons, with suche kynde of victuell and fuell, as shall be mete and requisite for the persons so shutte by and forbidden to come abroad, duryng the foresayde space of fortie dayes.

And further, where it is evidently knowen that in the sayde Citie of Westminster, there be greater numbres of people inhabytyng, and as it were swarmyng in euery roome, than can reasonably haue theyr sustentation by theyr honest labours or trade of luyng, by reason that for gredynesse and lucre, many owners or tenauntes of houses, do take in to them other inhabitauntes and famlyes, to dwell in some part of theyr chambers, Shoppes, cellers, or leanetooes, payyng for the same also suche excessyue wekely, or other kynde of rentes, as they can not maynteyne them selues without sekyng the same by sundry kyndes of disorder. For remedy wherof, there hath ben in that Citie auncient good orders and burges lawes provided: Therfore it is ordered, that all maner of persons that dwell in any house, which hath serued within these twelue monethes but for one household, shall suffer no persons, other then such as shall be without fraude knowen to be part of theyr famlye, to dwell and abyde, otherwyse then gesses do in Innes, or strangers do hyre theyr lodgynges for some small tyme, in any part of theyr sayde houses, after the .x. of Apryll next: but that other the one or the other famlye shall remoue from thence, and the whole house, with the chambers, Shoppes, and cellers, shall be occupied but with one ruler, master, or keeper, and one famlye thereto belongyng, vppon payne that whosocuer shall do to the contrary, shall be punyshed accordyng to the auncient orders in that behalfe heretofore deuysed. And if that shall not be sene sufficient, further remedy shall be by order provided, as to such a case is requisite.

From Wyndsoz the .xii. of March. 1563. A^o 6th Elizabeth

W. Cecill.
Amb. Case.

